

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A portrait image processing method and a portrait image processing apparatus of the present invention extract a portrait image from an original image and composite the extracted portrait image and a background image prepared in advance to create a
5 composite image. On the other hand, the method and the apparatus detect a boundary of a person and a background from the original image and judges whether or not the detected boundary is a true contour of the person for each part of the boundary. Then, the method and the apparatus apply correction processing (overwrite processing of a correction image) for concealing a boundary part, which is judged not to be the true
10 contour of the person, to the boundary of the person and the background in the composite image. In this way, even in the case in which the portrait image is not extracted accurately from the original image, the method and the apparatus form an image, which is obtained by compositing the extracted portrait image and the background image, as a natural image.

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